

# Ülgen

**Bai-Ülgen** or **Ülgen** (Old Turkic: **Bey Ülgen**; also spelled **Bai-Ulgen**, **Bai-Ülgen**, **Bay-Ulgan**, **Bay-Ulgen**, or **Bay-Ülgen**; *Khakas*, *Shor* and *Altay*: Ёлген; *Mongolian*: Үлгэн; *Russian*: Ульгѐнь) is a *Turkic* and *Mongolian* creator-deity, usually distinct from *Tengri* but sometimes identified with him in the same manner as *Helios* and *Apollo*. His name is from Old Turkic *bay*, "rich", and *ülgen*, "magnificent". Ülgen is believed to be without either beginning or end.

Contents

Features

Children of Ülgen

References

Bibliography

External links

| Ülgen                       |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Planets, Stars, and Shamans |          |
| Abode                       | Sky      |
| Symbol                      | Pleiades |
| Personal information        |          |
| Parents                     | Tengri   |
| Siblings                    | Umay     |
|                             | Erlik    |
|                             | Koyash   |
|                             | Ay Tanrı |

## Features

In *Turkic* and *Mongolian mythology*, the birch tree, regarded as a cosmic axis between earth and sky, was regarded as sacred to him, as was the *horse* (horse-sacrifice was a part of his worship).<sup>[1]</sup> Ülgen symbolizes goodness, welfare, abundance, plentiness of food, water, etc. Furthermore, he created earth, heaven and all living beings. In addition, he controls the atmospheric events and movements of stars.<sup>[2]</sup> He creates land for people to live on, the heads of both humans and animals and the rainbow. He was regarded as the *patron god* of *shamans* and the source of their knowledge.

It is believed that Ülgen has been created from Tengri (Tengere Kayra Khan). He is the highest deity after Tengri in the Mongo-Turkic pantheon. Often, Ülgen is compared with Tengri and at times they are thought to be on par, or even the same. In some sayings, the name/function of Ülgen may be (partially) interchangeable with that of Tengri.

Ülgen is described as the enemy of *Erlik* who is the god of evil and darkness. Ülgen assumes the protectorship of humankind against him.

Bai-Ülgen lives on the sixteenth floor of the sky above the stars, sun and moon in a golden house. Mere humans may never reach him, excepting shamans or kams, who possess astral powers. Animals are used for sacrifice in worship of him, especially horses. Once in every third, sixth, ninth, or twelfth year, a shaman may sacrifice a white horse as the first step of reaching Ülgen. Then he must ride its soul, penetrate through all the layers of heaven until he reaches Ülgen. Firstly, the kam (shaman) meets Yayık who is the servant of Ülgen. This entity informs the kam whether or not the offering has been accepted. If the sacrificial rite has been successful, the shaman is able to learn from the omniscient Ülgen of impending dangers, such as bad harvests.

# Children of Ülgen

---

Ülgen has seven sons, the Ak oğlanlar (White Boys) or Kıyatlar:

1. **Karshyt Khagan** or **Karşıt Han**: The god of purity.
2. **Bura Khagan** or **Pura Han**: The god of horses.
3. **Burcha Khagan** or **Burça Han**: The god of prosperity.
4. **Yashyl Khagan** or **Yaşıl Han**: The god of nature.
5. **Karakush Khagan** or **Karakuş Han**: The god of birds.
6. **Kanym Khagan** or **Er Kanım**: The god of confidence.
7. **Bakhty Khagan** or **Baktı Han**: The god of blessing.

He also has nine daughters,<sup>[3][4][5]</sup> called **Akkızlar** or **Kıyanlar**, but no one knows their names. His daughters are source of inspiration for shamans.<sup>[6]</sup>

## References

---

1. Horse Sacrifice and The Shaman's Ascent to The Sky, Adapted from: Mircea Eliade (<http://www.mircea-eliade.com/from-primitives-to-zen/093.html>)
2. Altay ve Şor Mitolojisiinde Ülgen Tanrısı ([http://turkish.ruvr.ru/2012\\_12\\_29/altay-ve-sor-mitolojisiinde-ulgen-tanrisi/](http://turkish.ruvr.ru/2012_12_29/altay-ve-sor-mitolojisiinde-ulgen-tanrisi/))
3. Türk mitosları ve Anadolu efsanelerinin izsürümü, Zühre İndirkaş, Can Göknıl, 2007
4. Türk mitolojisi, Murat Uraz, Page 86 ([https://books.google.com/books?id=\\_F7jAAAAMAAJ&q=%C3%BCIgen+kizi&dq=%C3%BCIgen+kizi&hl=en&sa=X&ei=DP6AUuifNKGswaOhIDI CQ&ved=0CEUQ6AEwAw](https://books.google.com/books?id=_F7jAAAAMAAJ&q=%C3%BCIgen+kizi&dq=%C3%BCIgen+kizi&hl=en&sa=X&ei=DP6AUuifNKGswaOhIDI CQ&ved=0CEUQ6AEwAw))
5. Mitolojiden efsaneye: Türk mitolojisinin Türkiye'deki efsanelerde izleri, Muharrem Kaya
6. Türk Söylence Sözlüğü (Turkish Mythological Dictionary), Deniz Karakurt, **e-Book** (OTRS: CC BY-SA 3.0)

## Bibliography

---

- Çoban, Ramazan Volkan. *Türk Mitolojisiinde İyilik Tanrısı Ülgen'in İnaniştaki Yeri, Tasviri ve Kökeni (Turkish)* ([https://www.academia.edu/2536361/Turk\\_Mitolojisiinde\\_Iyilik\\_Tanrisi\\_Ulgen\\_in\\_Inanistaki\\_Yeri\\_Tasviri\\_ve\\_Kokeni.htm](https://www.academia.edu/2536361/Turk_Mitolojisiinde_Iyilik_Tanrisi_Ulgen_in_Inanistaki_Yeri_Tasviri_ve_Kokeni.htm))
- Anokhin, "Materials on Shamanism of Altai", Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography at the Russian Academy of Sciences, Leningrad 1924
- Tokarev, "Religion in the history of the world", Moscow 1986

## External links

---

- Merkez Simgeçiliği, Salahaddin Bekki ([http://turkoloji.cu.edu.tr/HALKBILIM/salahaddin\\_bekki\\_merkez.pdf](http://turkoloji.cu.edu.tr/HALKBILIM/salahaddin_bekki_merkez.pdf)) (in Turkish)
- Gods in Turkish Mythology (<http://www.gnoxis.com/turk-mitolojisiinde-tanrilar-39456.html>) (in Turkish)
- Chosen by the Spirits, Julie Ann Stewart ([http://texts.00.gs/Chosen\\_by\\_the\\_Spirits\\_appendices.htm](http://texts.00.gs/Chosen_by_the_Spirits_appendices.htm))

---

**This page was last edited on 16 November 2021, at 15:31 (UTC).**

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.